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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/18/2018  
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SUBJECT: KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON THE FARC

REF: STATE 77205

Classified By: PolMinCouns Scott Bellard, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) In meetings with Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Director General for Latin America and the Caribbean James Lambert in Ottawa on July 18 (septel), U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States and PolMinCouns conveyed reftel talking points, expressed appreciation for Canada's earlier statements, and encouraged Canada to consider additional statements and actions to keep pressure on the FARC. Lambert agreed to consider new measures, but commented that the FARC now appeared "on its last legs." He also noted that Hugo Chavez had clearly had to backtrack given the information about Venezuelan support for the FARC contained in the seized computers, but agreed that Venezuela still needed to take some demonstrable steps to sever any remaining ties.

¶2. (C) Lambert added that Canada believes the Canadian citizen who went missing in Colombia on June 26 is now a hostage of the FARC, but admitted that there had been no communications about him or request for ransom whatsoever. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will send a team to work with Colombia officials, and DFAIT's terrorism officials have separately been in communication with S/CT on this case.

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